CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE ON 29 OCTOBER 1995 CONDEMNING THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CARRIED OUT BY FRANCE AT MURUROA ATOLL

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to attach a copy of an official statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile on 29 October 1995 condemning the nuclear explosion carried out by France at Mururoa atoll.

The Permanent Mission of Chile requests the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament to arrange for the statement to be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
JOSE MIGUEL INSULZA

The Government of Chile expresses its most forceful condemnation and rejection of the latest nuclear explosion carried out by France at Mururoa atoll, continuing a policy which runs counter to the predominant wish in the world for progress towards denuclearization and peace.

Although the Government of France has announced its intention to sign the Treaty of Rarotonga, which defines the Pacific as a zone free from the use and passage of nuclear weapons, in May next year, and to accede to a worldwide treaty which will ban nuclear testing once and for all, this new test calls into question whether France is genuinely prepared to subscribe to this policy.

The President of France recently announced his Government's decision to reduce the number of nuclear tests scheduled to be held in the South Pacific, an area of direct interest for our country, from eight to six. Chile considers that only the complete suspension of the plan will truly indicate France's resolve to subscribe to the policy for the banning of nuclear testing throughout the world.

Santiago, 29 October 1995